

Maina Tudu: Life and work

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Introduction:

Mrs. MAINA TUDU is a renowned Santali writer and social reformer. She has been awarded Kendra Sahitya Academy Yuva Puraskar-2017, for her Poetry book titled “MARSAL DAHAR” . The meaning of title Marsal Dahan in English is “The Way To Bright Path” . Because of her reformative approach and with a vision to show the developmental path to her fellow Santali people she has penned down numerous books in Santali Language. The composition of Marsal Dahan- a poetry, Arupheraw- a prose, Santali Grammar in shorter format, The Ram Katha translation in shorter format from “The Ramayana” and her compilation of Santali Dictionary (Santali-Santali-English) eventually puts her in the middle of and draws the attention of Santali speaking people around the World.

Early Life :

“Maina Tudu ”(Hansdah), was born to an agriculture family of Santali Tribe in 11th March 1985 in the village of ANDHARI (Edelghutu) , under KULIANA block of Mayur Bhanj district in the state of ODISHA . Her birth name was Maina Hansdah. When she married to Ram Chandra Tudu, her surname was changed to “TUDU” instead of Hansdah. (Tudu, Hansdah, Murmu, Soren, Marandi etc are clans of Santali People) Her father late Sri KARAN HANSDAH and mother late Smt. KARMI HANSDAH, were mostly respectable couple in and around the Kuliana Panchayat with vast social knowledge and purity in mind towards religious believe as well as in society service . She grown up within the family that has intact reputation in the field of mankind and social service. Maina has seven elder sister and two elder brothers. She being tenth one and that is because she was not able to enjoy her mother’s love for a long time. Her mother died when she was at the age of 3. Although orphaned by mother she had never felt the short of love and affection as elder brother and sister had taken care of her . Her brother Somnath Hansdah and Bhagmat Hansdah are also well known Santali drama writer and literary interested persons.

Education and Her Family:

Her seven elder sisters are brought up uneducated by her parent, the reason may be non availability of schools in 60's , when schools or colleges are located in a far distances from the villages. But her brothers had managed to access the education with harsher way of to and fro journey either by walk or by bi-cycle to the primary level. In the way of revolution their Panchayat got primary school and that too allotted to their village Andheri from where she got her primary education with the gentle decision and support from her brothers. Her brother duo have higher grade of education with good career and so they thought that out of eight girl child one must get good education. This idea and support from her brother helped Maina to be devotional towards education. After finishing primary education she was admitted at ASONJODA, Kanya Ashram for upper primary education. Ashram is the residential school meant for Scheduled Tribes either for boys or girls and these are established in early 80's by then Odisha Government to provide quality education free of cost. With brilliant result at Asanjoda Kanya Ashram, she got chance to get admission at famous Capital Girl's High School, situated at Unit-2 of Bhubaneswar, the Capital city of Odisha through entrance test. It may be a God grace that her marriage was fixed by her family without allowing her to complete 10th class.

She was married to Ram Chandra Tudu, a Central Government Employee in the year 1999. Looking her interest in education her husband supported her and got admitted at Municipality High School Gandhigram, Scindia Road, Visakhapatnam, from where she completed her high school certificate in the year of 2001. Later in the year of 2004, she completed her Intermediate education from Sunabeda Women's College, Sunabeda, Odisha state. She graduated from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. She got huge support from her husband that eventually helped crossing the stigma being married during her education and with a will to do something to her community she rose to the fame, among the Santali speaking people. Her husband Ram Chandra Tudu, is also

a eminent Santali writer and social worker. They have two sons, one named by Lambodhar and another Karan.

Literary Contibution

With brilliant reading and writing ability, she was also very much interested in singing. Her good voice impressed the teachers and so she was assigned to write songs as well as compose lyrics for school program. These tasks in school been performed smoothly at school level program and she received loud appreciation from teachers . Perhaps solving this type of artistic task brought her up to this level. In her primary level of education her father was so impressed with her reading and writing ability that one day he told Maina to draft the social knowledge's earned by him. This idea of noting down the social knowledge inspired her to do something for society. She started writing poetry, prose, seeing the way of people migrating and leaving their homes in search of money to be earned. The way people forget their age old parents, even their own pregnant wife virtually making their children orphaned. Migration in the search of money later become alcoholic and monetary accumulation become negative. To aware the society against alcoholism and refreshing the mind of opting for education she penned the poems, published books to reach the society. She has recited her revolutionary poems in All India Radio, Baripada, Odisha state to reach the people and educate the people.

She has written Santali Grammar in shorter format to improve the vocabulary of Santali language. She has compiled Santali Dictionary (Olchiki-Olchiki-English script, 1008 pages)[[Reference](#)] to preserve the Santali words and Language. Being a composer of lyrics from childhood she still composes songs and lyrics that are widely accepted and sung by many social organization during cultural event. Her articles are published in many monthly/bi-weekly/quarterly Santali magazines and in Santali News papers. She is life member in All India Santali Writers Association, Central located at Jhargram, West Bengal state, All India Santali Writers Association, Odisha Branch, Young Writers Association, located at Tata Nagar, Jharkhand state.

Published Books

She has published the following books.

1. OI Chiki ara gaban (Santali short grammar). - 2014
2. Santali Dictionary (Santali-Santali-English) Language. - 2015
3. Marsal Dahir (Poetry). - 2016
4. Arupheraw (Prose). - 2016
5. Ram Katha (Translation From The “Bal Ram Katha”, Hindi). – 2017